

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) External door handle for vehicles, comprised of a handle (10'', 10''') arranged on the outer side of the door and being hollow at least partially, wherein the handle (10''; 10''') comprises at least one U-shaped shell (21; 21'') whose U-space (44, 44') serves for receiving the electronic components (16), and wherein in the connected situation the U-shaped shell (21, 21''') is spanned at the visible side by a C-shaped front strip (20'', 20''') and is anchored thereat, wherein the two C-end sections (25''; 25) of the front strip (20''; 20''') engage an additional circumferential area of the U-shaped shell (21''; 21''') from above or from below and the electronic components (16) are encapsulated water-tightly and are arranged in a carrier open at the top, the carrier

being arranged within the handle formed of the U-shaped shell and the front strip.

2. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the C-front strip (20'') covers directly with one of its C-end sections (25'') the upwardly facing U-shell opening (32) of the shell (21).

3. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the U-shell opening (32') of the U-shaped shell (21''') is aligned relative to the front section (45) of the C-front strip (20''') and the front strip (20''') with its front section (45) covers directly the U-shell opening (32') of the shell (21''').

4. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 2, wherein the two C-end sections (25'') of the C-front strip (20'') comprise a profiled snap element (36), such as a tooth recess (36), at their inner surface (38), respectively, and that this snap element in the connected situation engages a counter snap element, such as a tooth projection (37), provided on the shell.

5. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the C-front strip (20''; 20''') has substantially parallel extending C-end sections (25, 25'') and that, for realizing a connection, the C-end sections (25, 25'') can be snapped into place on the shell (21; 21''') by means of a lateral sliding assembly (34) of the C-front strip (20'').

6. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 4, wherein the snap element or counter snap element (36, 37) has a tooth profile and that the tooth profile on its tooth flank active in the connecting sliding direction (34) of the C-front strip (20'') has a leading slant (41) for the C-end sections (25'') while in the counter direction (43) a steep tooth flank (42) is provided.

7. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the handle (10) is a two-part (21, 22) combination of a U-shaped base shell (21) and a cover shell (22) connected with the U-legs (23) of the base shell, wherein between the two shells (21, 22) in the connected

situation a contact seam (18) results at the visible side and the hollow space (14) between the two shells (21, 22) serves for receiving the electronic components (16), wherein the C-end sections (25) of the front strip (20) have hook-like angled C-ends (27),

wherein

in the connected situation, the two shells (21, 22) are spanned at the visible side by the front strip (20), wherein the two C-end sections (25) of the front strip (20) engage from above or from below a circumferential area of the shells (21, 22), respectively, and are arranged in an upper groove (29) of the cover shells (22) and a lower groove (28) of the base shell (21) in a sunk arrangement.

8. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 7, wherein the base and the cover shells (21, 22) in the area of engagement from above or below of the front strip (20) have stepped recesses (26) and that these recesses (26) end at the upper groove (29) and the lower groove (28).

9. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein in the mounted situation the front strip (20, 20'', 20''') with its contour (30) has a flush transition into the shells (21, 22) or the shell (21, 21''').

10. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the front strip (20; 20'', 20''') itself is provided at the visible side with a let-in decorative cover (19).

11. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 1, wherein the carrier for the electronic components (16) is a container (15) having six sides, wherein five of the six sides are and wherein one of the six sides is open and faces upwardly after mounting in the handle (10, 10'', 10''').

12. (Previously presented) External door handle according to claim 11, wherein the container (15) is manufactured of hard plastic material.